



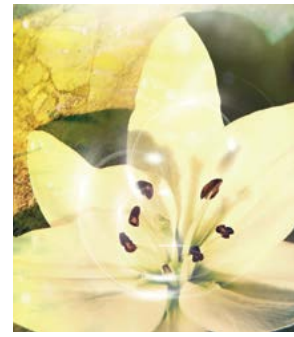
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Easter Mass Schedule



# The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria April 2014

## Dialogue, Hope and Blessing

by Myra Charlie

I had resigned myself to believing that the Fairmont Empress Hotel is a place that I would never have a cup tea! Then lo and behold there was a meeting of the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops—Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs (AWCB-SCAA) Dialogue with Aboriginal Peoples of the Diocese of Victoria at the Empress Hotel on February 24, 2014 (a blessing)! My thoughts regarding the gathering are that it was a time of listening, talking, reflecting, with our faith people from all walks of life and is ongoing like the cup of tea that heals many illness.

In attendance to the meeting was Sr. Eva Solomon (facilitator), an Ojibway from Northern Ontario; Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins (on behalf of the Diocese of Victoria); representatives from the Church (Archbishop, Bishops, Priests and Sisters). Areas that were represented were Australia, Seattle, Eastern Canada, and First Nations from West and East Vancouver Island.

At the start of the session, we sat in a circle. It was specified that everyone was to be seated in a circle: no one was to sit behind another person. I really felt that was an excellent arrangement for the dialogue because we are all children of our Creator. We are all equally loved even though each individual's journey may be in a different river, stream, or creek on pilgrimage with Jesus to our Creator.

I will mention only five of the comments that were stated during the Session, in condensed form. First: ceremonies must not be more important than the purpose of the gathering. Second: pain is a gift—make it work. Third: mistakes were made. Fourth: witnessing the “smudging”. Fifth: I am a First Nations Catholic Person!

The first comment, to me, is an area where we as First Nations people need to continue to be cautious as we practise our faith with our customs/ traditions. The second comment, yes we have suffered pain; however, we could wash our pain (spiritually) in the water that we are travelling on and turn those pains into strength/ prayers. Third, yes, mistakes were made and the fact that we gather as children of our Creator is a step forward! Witnessing differences in traditions is

recognizing the gifts Aboriginals have to offer as we walk with our Lord to our Heavenly Father. Fifth: I am a First Nations Catholic person! I can be both: First Nations and Catholic!

The main ingredient in tea is water. I feel if I listened to others more attentively; vocalized to brothers and sisters where I would like my cup of tea; shared some reflections, my wish would have materialized much sooner (always hope). I have compared our journey to our Heavenly Father to the life-giving water that we are blessed with and I feel that dialogue is the ingredient that helps us as brothers and sisters of Jesus as we paddle, swim or sail up-river. Not to forget to listen, to talk, to reflect, with Jesus as our guide, is a blessing! ✠



Archbishop Richard Gagnon (centre) with members of St. Ann's Parish Community

## Santi Subito!

by Fr. Thomas Rosica CSB

Excerpted from September 30, 2013 Salt & Light Blog

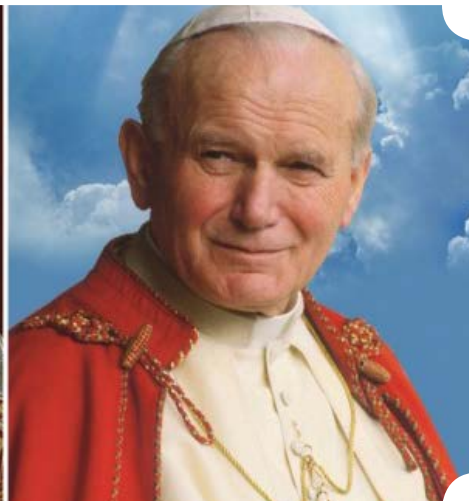
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Last September, Pope Francis presided over the Public Ordinary Consistory for the forthcoming Canonizations of Blessed Pope John XXIII and Blessed Pope John Paul II. During the course of the special gathering of Cardinals in the Vatican's Consistory Hall, the Pope decreed that his two predecessors will be raised to Sainthood together on April 27, 2014, the day on which the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy.

In an opinion piece in the Chicago Tribune (July 14, 2013 *Even Popes Can Be Saints*), Kenneth L. Woodward, former religion editor of *Newsweek* and an expert on the saint-making process, said the plan was not simply an exercise in placating two divergent ideological wings in contemporary Catholicism. Rather, Francis is reminding the rest of the church that the holiness each man manifests in his own way is more important than the papal office they had in common.

### Blessed John XXIII

In 1958, at nearly 77 years old, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli was elected Pope upon the death of Pius XII. He was expected by many to be a caretaker and transitional Pope, but he astonished the Church and the world with his energy and reforming spirit. He expanded and internationalized the college of cardinals, called the first diocesan synod of Rome in history, revised the *Code of Canon Law*, and called the Second Vatican Council with the specific purpose of renewing the life of the Church and its teachings and reuniting Christians throughout the world.



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# Pope Francis: His First Year

## March

**13** Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio is elected pope, taking the name Francis. He is the first Jesuit and the first Latin American to hold the office. According to New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, there “wasn’t a dry eye in the house” at the Sistine Chapel the moment when former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected as the next pope, with the 115 cardinals meeting for the conclave then bursting into applause.



**16** Pope Francis greeted guests—and a few guide dogs—at his first press conference, held at the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican. “I would like to see a Church that is poor and is for the poor,” he proclaimed.

**19** Francis is officially inaugurated as Pope.

**23** Pope Francis dines with his predecessor, Benedict XVI. It is the first meeting of two popes in more than 600 years.

**28** Pope Francis washes the feet of a dozen inmates at a juvenile detention centre in a Holy Thursday ritual.



**31** In his first Easter Sunday address at the Vatican (*Urbi et Orbi*, “To the City and the World”), Pope Francis calls for world peace.

**G**race is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason.

## April

**21** 10 new priests are ordained at the Vatican with Pope Francis celebrating Mass.

**30** Pope Francis welcomes Shimon Peres, president of the State of Israel, to discuss hopes of reconciling differences between Israelis and Palestinians.

## May

**16** Pope Francis receives four new ambassadors at the Vatican and warns that “we have created new idols” in money and greed.



## June

**15** In his first step towards reforming the troubled Vatican Bank, Pope Francis approves Monsignor Battista Mario Salvatore Ricca as the interim prelate.

**19** Pope Francis invites a 17-year-old boy with Down syndrome into the popemobile in front of a crowd of thousands.

**F**ind new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.

## July

**22** The Pope’s first international trip is to Brazil for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

**28** On his homeward flight from World Youth Day, Pope Francis holds a press conference on the airplane. Aura Miguel of Radio Renascenca asked, “Why [do] you ask so insistently that people pray for you? ... we’re not used to hearing a pope ask so often that people pray for him. The pope responded, “I have always asked this. When I was a priest, I asked it, but less frequently. I began to ask with greater frequency while I was working as a bishop, because I sense that if the Lord does not help in this work of assisting the People of God to go forward, it can’t be done. I am truly conscious of my many limitations, with so many problems, and I am sinner—as you know!—and I have to ask for this. But it comes from within! I ask Our Lady too to pray to the Lord for me. It is a habit, but a habit that comes from my heart and also a real need in terms of my work. I feel I have to ask ... I don’t know, that’s the way it is ...”



**F**rom my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.

## August

**22** Pope Francis makes an impromptu phone call, the first of many surprise calls (which he does not consider newsworthy) to Italian IT student Stefano Cabizza after receiving a letter from the teenager about his life and hopes of finding a job after graduation.

**31** Pope Francis appoints Archbishop Pietro Parolin to succeed Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone as the Holy See’s Secretary of State.

## September

**5** Pope Francis urges world leaders meeting at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia to abandon “the futile pursuit of a military solution” in Syria.

**27** Pope Francis meets at the Vatican with the winners of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.

**30** Pope Francis announces that he will canonize two of his most influential predecessors, John Paul II and John XXIII, on April 27, 2014. *See stories page 1 & 17 of this paper.*

## October

**8** Pope Francis calls for an Extraordinary Synod to be held in October 2014 to discuss the subject of the family, only the third Extraordinary Synod in modern Church history.

**23** The Pope suspends Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst of Limburg, Germany, who is dubbed in the press the “Bishop of Bling” over accusations of his lavish spending.

## November

**9** Pope Francis greets hundreds of people in wheelchairs one by one—part of a special gathering in which rows of seats were removed from a Vatican auditorium to make room for the disabled visitors.

**20** Pope Francis embraces and blesses a man with a severely disfigured face, continuing his efforts to promote a “culture of encounter.”



**W**e have observed that, in society and the world in which we live, selfishness has increased more than love for others, and that men of good will must work, each with his own strengths and expertise, to ensure that love for others increases until it is equal and possibly exceeds love for oneself.

## December

**11** Pope Francis is named *Time* magazine’s Person of the Year.

**17** Pope Francis invites a group of homeless men and their dog to join him for Mass and breakfast on his birthday.

**24** First Christmas Eve Mass as pontiff. “If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, the darkness falls within us and around us.”

**31** In the Pope’s year-end prayer service in St. Peter’s Basilica, he urges people to ask themselves a difficult question: Did they mainly spend 2013 promoting self-interest or helping others?

## January

**12** In line with his belief that the Church must pay more attention to the poor, Pope Francis names his first batch of Cardinals, choosing 19 men from Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, including the developing nations of Haiti and Burkina Faso.

## February

**6** The pope auctions off a Harley-Davidson that was donated to him to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the motorcycle company. Proceeds from the Bonham’s-handled auction went to benefit the Don Luigi di Liegro hostel and soup kitchen, based at Rome’s Termini railway station.

*Photo credits: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/2014/03/13/top-10-moments-pope-francis-first-year> and *The New Yorker Magazine**







## Sleeping Bags: an Errand of Mercy

by Margaret White

It's as if you were inside a Sacrament. Have you ever been there? Of course you have, but it is easily missed. It's an "outward, visible symbol of an inward, invisible reality."

One man, one woman cries out to have his or her most basic need met. God knows the need before the cry. His compassion and loving kindness are already engaged in the hearts of men and women He has appointed for this task. A Social Justice group at St. Joseph the Worker parish church meets and decides again at year end to buy some sleeping bags for homeless people in Victoria. Across the city a store-owner generously renews his commitment to be part of the solution in our community, especially for those who have no voice. Not only does he authorize the group's purchase of sleeping bags at last year's sale price, but kindly offers for the second year in a row to match their donation. Mr. Kim Reynhoudt of Canadian Tire on Admirals Road willingly agreed to our proposal, commenting that he liked taking part in small projects to benefit the community in support of worthy causes.

And how will the sleeping bags be distributed? Well, the compassion and efforts of both Canadian Tire and St. Joseph's form a small part of the annual donations made to the Dandelion Society, whose main concern is to find and help the homeless in our city and others in need. Rev. Al Tysick makes daily rounds offering, among other things, coffee, donuts, clean socks, underwear, sleeping bags and bus fare; and he puts men and women in contact with other local service providers as well.

A whole village indeed, for one man's cry. But so many hearts are touched. So many eyes are opened. So many lessons learned. And so much work for love to do, inside a Sacrament. ✂

## D&P Launches Campaign to End World Hunger

Share Lent Press Release

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace has launched its annual *Share Lent* campaign, which this year is raising awareness of the injustice of world hunger. With the theme, *One Human Family, Food for All*, the campaign is calling on Canadians to fight against hunger and show their solidarity with all those in the Global South who do not have enough to eat.

As the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis, a worldwide federation of Catholic development and humanitarian aid organizations, Development and Peace is joining in Caritas' global anti-hunger campaign, which was launched by Pope Francis in December, 2013.

"We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion—one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in the world is enough to feed everyone," implored Pope Francis when he launched the campaign.

"We are very proud to be a part of this campaign," says Sr. Marina Smith SSA, Chairperson of the local Development and Peace council. "Hunger is not caused by a lack of food but rather a lack of justice, and the theme of this year's campaign, *One Human Family, Food for All*, underlines the need to fight against hunger and poverty."

The campaign will run during the period of Lent and will culminate on April 6, when the Share Lent special collection for Development and Peace will be held in most parishes. With funds raised, Development and Peace supports local communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to live in dignity, and to end hunger and poverty. This year we are focusing on small-scale farming projects to ensure food security for the people.

Parishes throughout the Victoria Diocese have launched the campaign to support the people of the Global South. Our young people are participating in THINKfasts, one April 4 – 5 in Victoria with St. Andrew's High School and St. Joseph the Worker parish, the other April 11 – 12 in Duncan at Queen of Angels School.

The Victoria Diocese is hosting the BC/Yukon Regional Council Meeting on May 2 – 4 at the University of Victoria. A member of the National staff of Development and Peace will be attending. The meeting is open to everyone. If you would like more information, please contact Nancy Stuart at nancy-stuart@shaw.ca.

Donations in support of this campaign can be made by phone at 1 888 234-8533 or online at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org) or through your parish Share Lent collection.

For more information, contact Sr. Marina Smith SSA: (250) 386-3663 or [victoriadevp@gmail.com](mailto:victoriadevp@gmail.com). ✂

## Masithuthukisane Community and St. Joseph the Worker Twinning Proposal

by Lorraine Calderwood-Parsons

After months of discernment and consultation with parishioners, the Parish Council at St. Joseph the Worker in Victoria passed a motion to twin with an organic farming project, the Masithuthukisane Community Project.

This is an organic farming project run by the Mariannhill Diocese, located in the poorest area of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Its goal is to teach the people sustainable farming methods and management that will eventually see diocesan land returned to local people, and the large percentage of undernourished people fed.

“The Pope has called us to demonstrate, with concrete action, solidarity with the poor and the commitment to future generations through protection of the environment.

The project was chosen by the parish because of its link to both social and ecological justice and was championed by parish priest, Fr. William Hann, because of his commitment to the words and the direction of Pope Francis: “God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement.”

*The verb to cultivate reminds me of the care that the farmer has for his land so that it bears fruit, and it is shared: how much attention, passion and dedication! Cultivating and caring for creation is God's indication given to each one of us not only at the beginning of history; it is part of His project. It means nurturing the world with responsibility and transforming it into a garden, a habitable place for everyone.*

*Twelve is the number of the tribes of Israel, which symbolically represent all people. And this tells us that when food is shared in a fair way, with solidarity, when no one is deprived, every community can meet the needs of the poorest. Human ecology and environmental ecology walk together. (Masithuthukisane Project materials)*

The Pope has called us to demonstrate, with concrete action, solidarity with the poor and the commitment to future generations through protection of the environment. The Masithuthukisane project encompasses both.

Largely a Zulu Diocese, the people have been devastated by HIV/AIDS. They suffer from desperate poverty, and there are many orphan-led and grandmother-led families. The major goal of the Masithuthukisane project is to hire local women and men, currently unemployed, to work in cooperatives and to be able to feed a population of 3,500 people, many of whom are undernourished.

Under apartheid, many Zulus worked as labourers on farms owned by white landowners, but did not learn skills that are required to keep the land healthy and the farm economically and environmentally viable. This was made worse by the abandonment of land as a result of civil strife between post-apartheid factions..

The project will:

- initiate 350 organic gardens to produce fresh vegetables and maize to reduce the level of undernourishment by 20% by 2016;
- employ 250 women and 60 men in 10 cooperatives with advanced farming methods so they become independent and self-sustaining;
- register 10 cooperatives and link them with resources found in government and independent foundations so that they become self-sustaining through local and international markets;
- consolidate five community property associations with justice and peace groups;
- facilitate land and soil development to help potential community land owners prevent land degradation;
- improve farming methods for crop production; and,
- improve animal husbandry.

The parish plans to set up a steering committee of interested parishioners and representatives from parish committees. Strategic planning, including input from the school children at St. Joseph's Elementary, will be carried out.

The parish would appreciate prayers as we proceed with this initiative. For those wishing to donate to the project, please forward cheques to: St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 785 West Burnside Road, Victoria BC, V8Z 1M9. ✂

# Calendar of Events

**April**  
**25 – 26 L’angelus at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, Victoria:** *L’Angelus*, the band that opened for the Pope at World Youth Day in Spain, will perform two nights at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel. *L’Angelus*, a band comprised of members from one family, will provide an intimate evening including a gourmet three-course dinner and the performance. \$10 from each ticket sold will be donated to the Mount St. Mary Foundation, and will directly and positively impact lives by delivering life-affirming programs to address the spiritual and physical needs of Mount St. Mary residents. For more information contact Kathleen Burton: KBurton@msmfoundation.ca.

**26 Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** Annual Pro-Life dinner, 6 pm. Guest speaker Annette Turgeon of the Respect Life Ministry at St. Andrew’s Cathedral will give a presentation based on the bioethical questions young adults must address today. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this dinner and presentation. Attendance is by donation to Pro-Life Ministries at Ascension Church. For more information contact Jerry Loughhead by email to loughhead@shaw.ca.

**26 Sacred Heart, Victoria:** Christian Charities Spring Clothing and Garage Sale has been CANCELLED due to major kitchen renovations. Thank you for your continued support over the years. We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Fall Clothing Sale and Bazaar in November!

**27 Pacific Coliseum, PNE, Vancouver:** *Two Popes, Two Saints: A Canonization Celebration*, 2 pm. The week after Easter, on Divine Mercy Sunday, Popes John XXIII and John Paul II will be canonized in Rome. The Archdiocese of Vancouver invites you to join us at our huge canonization celebration at the Pacific Coliseum. Admission is free; contact your parish for tickets. Parking on site is \$10; free parking for Parish Buses. More information: [www.rcav.org/two-popes](http://www.rcav.org/two-popes).

**May**  
**2 – 3 Development and Peace BC/Yukon Regional Meeting:** Friday, May 2 at 7 pm and Saturday, May 3 from 9 am – 4 pm at the University of Victoria Cadboro Commons. For more information contact Sr. Marina Smith SSA: victoriadevp@gmail.com.

**2 Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** 2 – 4:30 pm. A lovely afternoon tea and ladies fashions from Close to You boutique in Parksville modeled by CWL Members. There will be door prizes, raffle and other fun activities. Tickets are \$18.00 each and will be sold in advance. No tickets at the door. More information: ascensionparish@shaw.ca. Free Parking.

**3 St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria:** Pastoral Care Outreach Session 3: *The Grieving Process and Ministering to Families*. Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. For more information contact sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or call 250.479.7413 to register.

**3 Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria:** the Annual Shred-a-Thon will take place from 10 am – 2 pm at Mount St. Mary Hospital, 861 Fairfield Road, Victoria (corner of Quadra and Fairfield), by donation (minimum donation \$10). Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$25 less FMV. For more information contact Barbara Newton: 250.480.3140 or info@msmfoundation.ca.

**8 Annual March for Life Event:** *Life: The Only Choice*. The March for Life starts with 12 pm Mass at both St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and St. Andrew’s Cathedral. Following the Ministry Fair, at 2 pm participants will begin the March from Centennial Square to the BC Legislature. The Rally for Life will take place on the Legislative lawns at 2:30 pm, featuring music and speakers from different walks of life. See story, page 8.

**8 Pro-Life Gala Dinner:** co-hosted by National Campus Life Network and Youth Protecting Youth, UVic’s pro-life club. This banquet is in support of the Youth Protecting Youth Bursary for Single Student Mothers and National Campus Life Network’s work with young pro-life student leaders. Doors open at 5:00pm. Location: St. Leopold’s Church Hall, 4081 Gordon Head Rd. Tickets: \$35 by April 30th. Tickets can be purchased online (. [www.ncln.ca/events/victoriabanquet](http://www.ncln.ca/events/victoriabanquet)) or by contacting Anastasia Pearse: westerncanada@ncln.ca, 604.365.3484.

## A Lifeline for Marriage

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It provides the tools you need to get your marriage back on track. You will rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing all kinds of marital problems, even infidelity or separation.

For confidential information or to register for the program in the Lower Mainland commencing the weekend of April 25 – 27, 2013, call 604-530-6710, email [vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org](mailto:vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org) or visit [www.retrouvaillevancouver.com](http://www.retrouvaillevancouver.com).

**10 St. Patrick’s Church Hall, Victoria:** Garage Sale for Syria. Victoria Diocesan Council of Development and Peace is holding a garage sale to raise money for the Syria Emergency Relief from 10 am – 2 pm. If you have items to donate to the sale, you can bring them to the St. Patrick’s Parish Hall anytime after 3 pm on Friday, May 9. We welcome items such as jewelry, purses, bags, hats, scarves, framed pictures and/or empty frames, gift items (like new soap or toiletries) ornaments, new material, books, CD’s, DVD’s, office supplies, and household items (mugs, cutlery, serving dishes, casserole dishes, pie plates, sets of dishes, vases, etc.). For more information contact Sr. Marina Smith SSA: victoriadevp@gmail.com.

**23 – 25 St. Andrew’s Regional High School:** DYC! Everyone in grades 8 – 12 and all recent graduates are invited! For more information see story on page XX, or contact the DYC Co-Chairpersons: teamdyc@gmail.com.

**31 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria:** 10 am – 12 noon, Billings Natural Family Planning Workshop. The Billings Ovulation Method™ is used by millions of women around the world. It was developed by Drs. John and Evelyn Billings, validated by eminent international scientists and successfully trialled by the World Health Organization. By learning to identify your natural signals of fertility, you can use the Billings Ovulation Method™ to become pregnant or avoid pregnancy and to safeguard your reproductive health. For more information, contact Linda Henderson: lhender@shaw.ca.

## Upcoming Events

**July 4–6 Camp Barnard, Sooke:** 2nd Annual Diocesan Family Conference: The Body of Christ—Building Each Other Up In Love. Cost is \$140/couple with children two years old or younger, \$240/family with children three years and older. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis—watch your parish bulletin for more information. See also ad on page 19 of this paper.

## Miscellany

Wednesdays

**St. Patrick’s Victoria:** Moms & Tots group. Come together with the moms of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria) for faith, fellowship and laughter. We discuss everything from two-year-old tantrums, to the dignity of women, to faith in our families and back to potty training. We meet at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings; childcare is provided. Contact Bonnie at (250) 213-4984 or koalabear\_writer@yahoo.ca for more info.

Fridays

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** 9:30 – 11 am, Moms & Tots Group. All mothers with children 6 years and under are welcome. For more information contact Rosemarie Urbanson at (250) 391-6618; no registration is required.

Saturdays

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 10 am (except December 24).

**At the Cathedral:** 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

**Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria:** The Victoria Chinese Catholic Community will hold gatherings on the first Saturday of each month from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, starting September 7. Meetings will include Bible study, faith sharing, talks, prayers, singing and Chinese Mass (in Cantonese and Mandarin whenever a visiting priest is available). Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information contact Ben Chow by email to benchow@shaw.ca.



## Retired Accountants Have Our Best Interest at Heart

*The Diocese of Victoria Finance Department is seeking accountants (retired or otherwise) to assist with internal audits throughout the Diocese.*

*For more information please call*

**Leah MacKenzie**  
(250) 479-1331 ext 231

Sundays

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 12 noon with Gregorian Chant and Sacred Hymns.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Religious Classes for Children and Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. 9:40 am – 10:25 am every Sunday. For more information contact Marie Peeters at (250) 542-4483.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Holy Families Group on the last Sunday of every month. This is an opportunity for married couples to share their faith and discuss marriage and family concerns in an authentically Catholic setting. And there’s a potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email onthisrock@shaw.ca.

**At the Cathedral.** 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

**To have your event included in the Diocesan Calendar of Events on the website, please email the details to [editor@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:editor@rcdvictoria.org)**

“Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.”

~ John 13:5



## The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Diocese of Victoria  
1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC,  
Canada V8X 2A1  
**[www.rcdvictoria.org](http://www.rcdvictoria.org)**

Circulation 6,600  
2013 Publication Dates  
February, April, June,  
September, November & December

Articles submitted for consideration must be received by the 5th of the month preceding publication. Submissions should be no more than 400 words in length, and those chosen for publication may be edited for content or length. Submissions and comments should be sent to: [editor@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:editor@rcdvictoria.org)

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# A Close Hand Look at the Legion of Mary

by Kathy Howland

“I can’t remember their name,” said Sharon. “But they meet every Friday night.” “We should go check them out,” I said. “There’s nothing like seeing for ourselves.”

A few days later we stood outside St. Andrew’s Cathedral Rectory, ringing the doorbell. Nobody answered. Lights were on, so we rang again. Finally someone appeared through the glass and opened the door a crack.

“We’re here for the 7:30 woman’s group,” said Sharon.

“The Legion of Mary?” asked the woman, looking us over. “Do you go to church here?” Dressed in jeans and ordinary jackets, we probably resembled anybody else out there on the dark street. Who was to say we were friend or foe? We nodded.

“Come in then,” said the young woman, as we followed her into the foyer and up the carpeted staircase. “Our meeting starts at 7 pm and we use the side door,” she added. Sharon and I glanced at each other sheepishly. We were a good example of “the blind leading the blind.”

It dared to remind me that our religious teachings have exquisite depth, breadth and merit. I didn’t want to study it. I wanted to consume it.

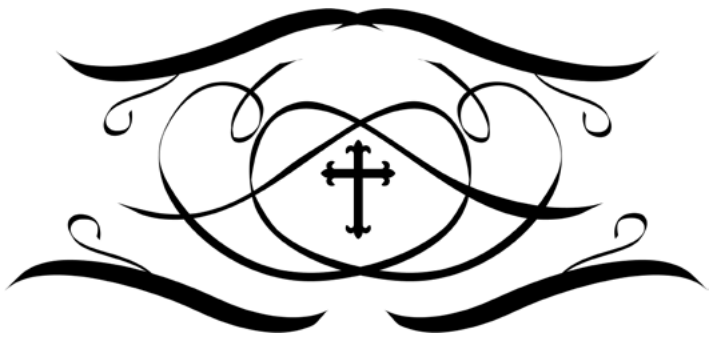
Upon entering the meeting room, I was offered a warm chair, while the group around the long table continued to recite the Rosary together. Then a petite woman nearby arranged her own Rosary into my hands, placed my fingers onto the appropriate bead, and rummaged around in a drawer for more Rosaries and other paraphernalia.

After our Sorrowful Mysteries, we read the boldly printed *Catena Legionis*: “Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as the army set in battle array?” (Song 6:10) “My soul glorifies the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on His servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed ...” (Luke: 1:46-55) Then came some business, and listening to Sister Joe, the Spiritual Advisor.

Later at home, as I delved into *The Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary*, I was stunned by its capacity to ignite profound connections between my head and heart. I’d rest it on my lap, contemplating its wisdom and my own life experiences. Persuasive, pious, and transparent, I felt grateful just holding it in my hands. And as someone who has a tendency to analyze almost everything I come across, at least according to my husband, I found myself similarly challenged by its direction. And I liked it, a lot. It dared to remind me that our religious teachings have exquisite depth, breadth and merit. I didn’t want to study it. I wanted to consume it.

My electrifying week zoomed by. This time I was there for the meeting’s opening prayers: “Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.”

What, I asked myself, could be more vital than that? ✠



# Church of the Ascension Hosts Annual Baby Shower

by Carmen Tellier, Christian Family Life Chairperson

On Thursday, February 20th, 2014, the CWL of Church of the Ascension in Parksville hosted their Annual Baby Shower to support crisis pregnancies in Nanaimo. This is one of the most enjoyable activities of our calendar year, as we gather to share beautiful, new “baby items” and a wonderful lunch so ably prepared by the very capable hands of our ladies in the kitchen. We enjoy fun, laughter, games, prizes and fellowship with other CWL members from Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Courtenay and Campbell River. Ladies from all the other Christian churches from Parksville and Qualicum were also invited, and it was so delightful to see them come in such large numbers to support this worthwhile cause.

Kirsten Emmanuel, the Executive Director of the Pregnancy Crisis Centre, along with other staff from the Centre, were on hand to talk to us about the work they do throughout the Oceanside area to assist those who are in need of their service. Ms. Emmanuel and her staff gave us a very comprehensive presentation explaining their work and how important this event is to the success of the Centre.

Also on hand for this event were some representatives from our parish youth group. They had a table to inform us of the work being done for Birthright by the National Campus Life Network. They are working very hard on our BC University Campuses to let young women know that they have other choices beyond abortion, and plenty of support to carry their pregnancy to term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my CWL sisters of Ascension Council. I am so indebted to you for your assistance in everything from decorating and setting up the hall, preparing and serving the exceptional lunch, welcoming the guests and sorting the gifts, providing prizes and finally in cleaning up. You all made the organizing of this day so much easier for me. God bless each and every one of you for your kind and giving heart. ✠



Baby Shower organizer Carmen Tellier (L) and CWL Communications Chairperson Sandi Digras (R) at the Annual Baby Shower

# 11th Annual Victoria Diocesan Youth Conference

by Kelly Bourke, from DYC website

## What?

Diocesan Youth Conference

## Where?

St. Andrew’s Regional High School, Victoria

## When?

May 23-25, 2014

## Who?

You and all your friends!

Students in grades 8 – 12 and recent graduates are all welcome!

## Why Go?

To grow and be inspired in your faith, to have fun, to make new friends!



It is a conference that changes lives, sets hearts on fire and feeds the soul!

DYC stands for *Diocesan Youth Conference*. It is *Diocesan* because it is the largest official Diocesan-wide gathering of young people of the year. It is *Youth* because it is for high-school-aged teenagers, as well as recent high school graduates. And it’s a *Conference*, but not just any conference. It is a conference that changes lives, sets hearts on fire, and feeds the soul! This conference features some of the best local, regional, national and international Christian and Catholic speakers around. It also features amazing fellowship with youth from all over the Diocese, fantastic games and ice-breakers, small group sessions, Sacraments, hilarious skits, a dance, and so much more! God is truly present in every moment of the conference, and this conference has undoubtedly been a spiritual catalyst for countless teens in their faith journey! Plan to be there!

To register or for more information, contact the DYC Co-Chairpersons Drew van Bourgondien and Ben Rizzuto at teamdyc@gmail.com, or contact Kelly Bourke at the Diocesan Youth Office: kbourke@rcdvictoria.org or (250) 479-1331 ext 230.

Registration forms are available on the Diocesan website at [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesan-youth-conference-dyc.php](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesan-youth-conference-dyc.php). ✠



# Called to Extraordinary Love

by Wendy Dyck

What do you think of when you hear the words *developmental disability*? For some, a person springs to mind, or a facility or program, but most of us couldn't provide a good definition. So let's start there: a developmental disability is a *mental and/or physical impairment that causes individuals difficulties in language, mobility, learning, and independent living and persists throughout their lifespan*. Each leaves its unique stamp on an individual, challenging their ability to participate in the larger society by saddling them with social, physical or mental behaviours that just don't fit in.

Lock Mawhinney was a man from the Comox Valley, an educator who worked tirelessly for the integration of developmentally disabled students. Mawhinney was passionate about inclusion because he believed that the relationships developed there were essential to becoming fully human.

“We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.

His efforts on behalf of developmentally disabled children were effective, but what happened once they left school? Became adults? Too often, he found, they were again isolated, their ageing parents worried about what the future might hold.

And then Mawhinney stumbled upon the work of Jean Vanier, a Canadian living in France who developed a model of unique community he called L'Arche—French for The Ark. These communities were made up of both the developmentally disabled and the able, the young and the old; rejecting institutional values and replacing them with authentic human relationships. At the heart of L'Arche was the idea of “mutuality”—that being in a relationship with a person with a disability could be mutually enriching.

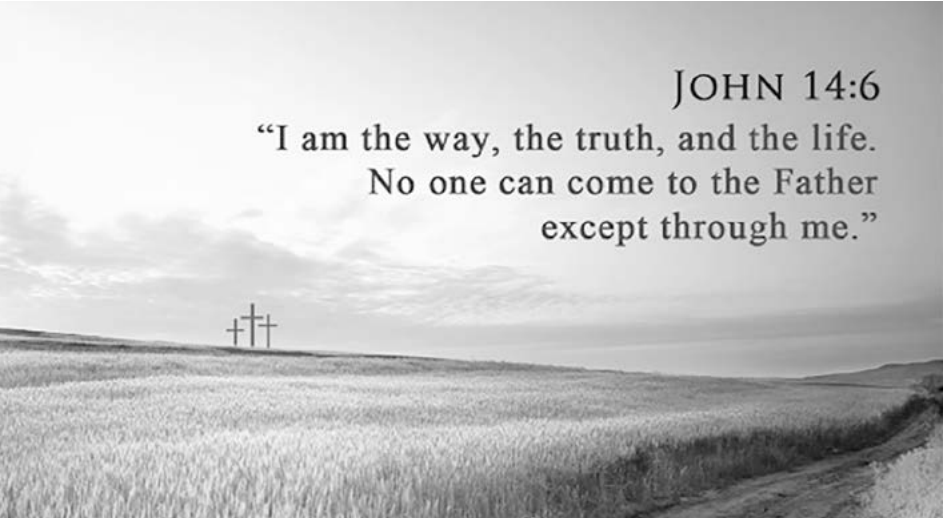
Mawhinney was inspired by what he saw and with his wife, Joanne, and a group of friends, determined to establish a L'Arche residence in the Comox Valley. They talked to churches and service clubs and raised the money to buy a modest house.



It didn't stop there—this group embraced the “core people” who lived in this house and included them in their lives. Following the charter of L'Arche International, they created a vibrant community of people bound together in a common humanity, where the gifts of relationship and creativity of people with intellectual disabilities were, and continue to be, central.

In 2007, L'Arche Comox Valley started a Creative Arts Outreach Centre to provide a gathering place and space for arts programs, further opening the door to the L'Arche community to anyone seeking meaningful interactions and relationship. The success of this Centre and the increased contact it gave with developmentally disabled adults who still lived at home inspired L'Arche CV to dream: how about a new Centre that could house not only the office and the Creative Arts Centre, but also provide residential units for those who could live semi-independently?

On April 4, L'Arche CV launched the I Belong! campaign to build this Centre. This is an exciting project with a very Christian premise—that we make a place for “the least of these” in our lives so that we can all be transformed. Consider how you might be a part of this project—as Jean Vanier said, “We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.” ✠



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—to build a vital community asset

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# Sammy Supply Shack Opens at St. Andrew's Regional High School

by Suzannah Goldsack

The Special Education Department at St. Andrew's Regional High School has, for the past two years, been trying to come up with a way to give our special education students additional work experience. Saint Vincent de Paul has been generously providing work experience for our students every Friday. Our students go to Saint Vincent de Paul to help sort fruits and vegetables for the people who regularly use Saint Vincent de Paul.



Mr. Keleher makes the first purchase at the Sammy Supply Shack

As some of our special education students prepare for graduation we wanted a way to teach business skills. The idea of the school store run by these students was overwhelmingly supported by our board and by a very generous start up donation by one of our board members. Our store began to take shape. It was decided that our store would run one day a week on Tuesdays. The student body was polled about the name and “Sammy Supply Shack” was chosen. Sammy is the name of our school mascot.

“Although our store provides a service to our St. Andrew's students the much more impressive benefit is the interaction between our students and the rest of the school population.

In addition to the wonderful cash donation we received we also received eight boxes of school supplies donated to us by Don Routliffe, general manager of Staples on Tolmie Avenue. So our students inventoried our product, created labels and prepared for our first sale of school supplies.

Our first purchase was made by Mr. Keleher, St. Andrew's Regional High School principal, and our second purchase was made by Mrs. Chimich. Our students have really embraced our store since our first sale in January! Recently we added baked goods and hot chocolate to our line of provisions. Initially our baked goods were provided by a staff member, but now our special education students bake, wrap and sell the goods. This has added a tremendous dimension to our store. Many students who don't need school supplies come for the baked goods and really enjoying interacting with our students.

This project has been so helpful in providing our special education students with business training in a comfortable environment. Our students set up, take down, count cash, pay bills and prepare bank deposits for the store. Our students are also responsible for making sure that they are there when they are supposed to be. For some students this is a great challenge but they are learning that if they make a commitment they must follow through.

“This project has been so helpful in providing our special education students with business training in a comfortable environment.

Although our store provides a service to our St. Andrew's students the much more impressive benefit is the interaction between our students and the rest of the school population. This is by far the best benefit we see from the program.

So if you are at St. Andrew's Regional High School on Tuesdays stop by the Sammy Supply Shack and enjoy some hot chocolate and baking while you pick up your new binder. ✂

# Traveling Light

by Jean Allen

*As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” (Luke 9:58)*

This is not a scripture passage that generally comes to mind when we consider the Lenten season but if we think about Lent as a desert sojourn and a journey of homelessness this passage is entirely appropriate. When we follow Jesus into the Lenten desert, or any spiritual desert for that matter, we are as homeless as Christ was throughout his ministry on earth and especially when the Spirit led him into the wilderness where Satan tempted him.

In 1 Peter, God's people are referred to as, “aliens and exiles” in one passage and “pilgrims and nomads” in another. In other words, we are strangers in a strange land. This world is not where we came from or where we belong and Lent is a good time to ponder how much we have settled in, how many intellectual, emotional and spiritual possessions we have weighed ourselves down with and whether we have allowed those possessions to become so heavy that movement in any direction is burdensome and difficult. We are not here to homestead, to make our mark, to find security or status or to be comfortable; we are pilgrims and nomads passing through on the way back to the place where we really belong. As we traverse over our desert terrains, the question isn't what we can gain; it's what we should lose.

Jesus had no possessions. He did not lay claim to or hold onto anything in the past nor did he grasp for assurances for the future. He did not need anyone to recognize him as someone important and worthy of respect. He didn't hold on to grudges. He never tried to reach for a safe and secure spot to call his own but walked with unburdened trust that he would be sheltered when he was in need of shelter and would be fed when he was in need of food.

“My food, my tools and my shelter—my home—is to do the will of the one who loves me and sent me on this desert journey.

He was so alive to the Father in the present moment that when he heard the voice of God say, “This is my Beloved son in whom I am well pleased,” he joyfully knew he had been given everything he could possibly need for the journey. He went into the desert armed only with this knowledge that he was loved. His load was light because he was filled with the light and even when the temptations came to bedevil him, he had all that he needed to push through and triumph. He knew exactly who he was. He was “Beloved”.

Life has a way of burdening us with false ideas of what is essential to the journey as well as false ideas about where our worth comes from. It makes us forget that we are pilgrims, not settlers, and that this world is not our real home. It's so easy to gather far more than is needed and feel needy for far more than is gathered until the journey becomes a treadmill in the sand. We need to open ourselves to the fresh winds of spiritual simplification. We need to gather the courage to let go of so much ‘stuff’ and to trust the Spirit to supply us with what we need spiritually when we need it. The essential requirement is to understand that the only thing that will carry us through the desert is the deep, inner knowledge that we, too, are Beloved.

The choice is whether you will trudge along with a load of heavy debris on which you can build a place to stay, lay your head and stay safe within your possessions or whether you will travel light through the desert.

May you travel light to the Resurrection! ✂



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St. Joseph the Worker Council 13356 serving Saanich West  
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# Pat Nichol Speaks to the Ascension CWL Council

by Pat Nichols

Thursday, March 13, 2014, the Church Hall was full of members of the Catholic Women's League who came to listen to Pat Nichol, an international speaker, published author and writer for Senior Living Magazine. Her topic was *The Lord's Prayer: the Source of Miracles*.

Pat's ready smile and streak of purple in her short cropped hair were clues she was going to give us something to make us smile, think and learn about. She asked the audience to tell us how they pictured God. One suggested a sense of loving arms protecting her and others agreed.



“The Lord's Prayer is our instruction manual for creating heaven on earth. If we pray each day we celebrate God while reinforcing our connection to the Divine and our destinies to create a world on earth as it is in heaven.”

Pat's handout was based on Kathleen McGowan's book *The Source of Miracles*, and featured an open-cut six petal rose on the style of the famous Cathedral at Chartres near Paris. Each of the petals represented a way to look more deeply into the Lord's Prayer—something we say very often, perhaps without really thinking about it. On her diagram of the rose she had us write on:

- The First petal: *Have Faith in you and your God*. We were asked to focus on our faith and when we pray we reinforce that faith.
- The Second petal was *Surrender*. She challenged us to give up self doubt and claim our worthiness, surrender to His Divine Will. We were asked to picture Jesus and a white sack of sorrows. We were to put all those doubts and worries in his sack and throw it into the river which flows directly to God.
- The Third petal represented *Service*. “Every good deed neutralizes a bad one,” Pat suggested. We were asked to choose one person to pray for each day. We are God's hands on earth.
- The Fourth petal was *Abundance*. Believe, ask and receive in God's way and time.
- The Fifth Petal: *Forgive*. Especially—begin with forgiving ourselves. She suggested this was the hardest thing for us to do.
- The Sixth Petal: *Conquer obstacles*—understand the deadly sins and how to overcome them.
- And in the centre: *Love*. Do all things with love and love will do all things.

The Lord's Prayer is our instruction manual for creating heaven on earth. “If we pray each day we celebrate God while reinforcing our connection to the Divine and our destinies to create a world on earth as it is in heaven.” ✂

# ICS Superintendent Joe Colistro Heading to Medicine Hat

Memo from Diocesan Administrator, Rev. John Laszczyk, April 3, 2014

Mr. Joe Colistro has tendered his resignation as Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools, effective July 30th, 2014. Mr. Colistro has accepted the position of Deputy Superintendent with Medicine Hat Catholic Schools, moving into the role of Superintendent the following September.

Mr. Colistro has been a part of the Diocese of Victoria and Island Catholic Schools for 26 years, serving as Principal of St. Patrick's Elementary for 10 years, St. Andrew's High School for 2 years, and Superintendent for the last 14 years. Joe has been committed to Catholic Education, provided strong leadership, and been instrumental in developing our six Island Catholic Schools with good reputations for academic excellence, instilling core values and building communities.

“[We] extend to Mr. Colistro our sincerest thanks and appreciation for his leadership, dedication, commitment and hard work over the course of the last 26 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe ...

On behalf of the Diocese of Victoria and Island Catholic Schools, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to Mr. Colistro our sincerest thanks and appreciation for his leadership, dedication, commitment and hard work over the course of the last 26 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe as he begins his new position in Medicine Hat.

The search for a new Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools will begin in the near future and an advertisement for the position will soon be available and posted on the Diocese of Victoria ([www.rcdvictoria.org](http://www.rcdvictoria.org)) and Island Catholic Schools ([www.cisdv.bc.ca](http://www.cisdv.bc.ca)) websites. ✂

# The Underrated Power of Kindness

by Margaret MacIntyre

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul may be most well known as an organization that provides material assistance to those in need. It provides a wide range of aid from giving out food and clothing to providing low-income housing and help with income tax returns. However, the real heart of the Society is not in the things it provides, but in the personal presence it insists upon. Having face-to-face personal contact with vulnerable people allows opportunities for kindness, acceptance and encouragement, which have a more transformative and lasting effect than simply giving material goods.



A volunteer at the Social Concern Office, which provides emergency food to those in need, tells the story of one day handing food to a man who seemed down in the dumps. They talked for a while, and when the man was leaving, the volunteer heard him say to others, “He said I was a good man.” He needed this simple act of kindness and affirmation more than he needed the food in the bag. Having to go to a food bank can be a humiliating experience and Vincentians pay attention to the human need for respect and dignity. There is a “Listening Ear” ministry at the Social Concern Office, so that anyone who wants to talk to someone has the opportunity.

Acts of kindness are powerful and transformative and we tend to underrate them because they appear to be so simple. Henry James once said, “Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” We can all remember moments in our life when unexpectedness kindness came our way and how deeply we were moved; gratitude wells up and we feel deeply the sense that God is caring for us through that kind person. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul tries to incarnate the compassionate, non-judgmental love of God for all people. We might think we are doing very little when we are kind, but there is no such thing as a small act of kindness because every act creates a ripple effect that helps to lift the burdens people carry through life, and flows through them to others they connect with.

“Acts of kindness are powerful and transformative and we tend to underrate them because they appear to be so simple.

If there is one thing that characterizes the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, it is the human contact that happens when they visit people in their homes, or in prison, or in a care facility, or in one of their thrift stores. This is the heart of the Society, to see Christ in every person and treat them with kindness and respect; it may be subtle, but it is the real powerhouse that energizes the whole organization. ✂

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# 2014 March for Life

by Anastasia Pearse

This May, British Columbians will once again unite in their efforts to promote the value and dignity of all human life. On Thursday, May 8, 2014, over 2,000 participants are expected to gather for the annual *March for Life* taking place in Victoria. The March for Life is an opportunity to unite British Columbian pro-lifers, encouraging them in their efforts, and moving them to action as we work to end the injustice of abortion. This year's theme is Life: the Only Choice.

In 2011, Statistics Canada reported 14,341 children were killed in BC in 2011 by abortion. However, this underestimates the total number as private clinics are not required to report the number of abortions they perform.

“I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable...”

In BC, a variety of pro-life organizations work to combat this injustice, and to support men and women who are facing decisions about untimely pregnancies. Many of these groups will be present at the March, and will be participating in the Pro-Life Ministry Fair occurring in Centennial Square between 1:30 and 2 pm before the start of the March. We encourage March for Life participants to visit these tables to discover ways to become involved in the pro-life movement.

The March for Life starts with 12 pm Mass at both St. Patrick's Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Cathedral. Following the Ministry Fair, at 2 pm participants will begin the March from Centennial Square to the BC Legislature. The Rally for Life will take place on the Legislative lawns at 2:30 pm, featuring music and speakers from different walks of life.

The day concludes with a banquet, being hosted for the second year in a row by National Campus Life Network (NCLN). This year's banquet is being co-hosted by Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), the pro-life club at the University of Victoria. Funds raised will help NCLN support pro-life students in their efforts on campus and will also fund the YPY Bursary for Single Student Mothers.

Provinces across Canada will also be marching in solidarity, hosting their own Marches, with the National March for Life in Ottawa hoping to top the 20,000+ participants who attended their 2013 March. Earlier this year, the National March for Life in Washington, DC evoked a tweet from Pope Francis, who affirmed the event, tweeting “I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable,” (sent from his @Pontifex feed). It is our hope in BC that this year's March for Life will encourage us in our efforts to help society respect the lives of the vulnerable.

For further information about the speakers, travel arrangements, banquet, and other details, please visit the Victoria March for Life website: [www.m4lvictoria.ca](http://www.m4lvictoria.ca)

# House Sought for Newman Community

by Fr. Dean Henderson

We need a house somewhere in the Gordon Head UVic area to relocate the Newman community of UVic men! After three years serving several guys in Catholic formation, fellowship and service, it is time to move from the rental townhouse to a home.

The fruit of this venture is abundant in vocational joy and ministry. In fact, one resident has just applied for seminary, another intends to, and four of the current residents went on the vocational road trip!

If you have a house that would contribute to the development of this ministry, I would love to hear from you—email me: [catholic@uvic.ca](mailto:catholic@uvic.ca)



## Speakers Include

- Most Rev. John Corriveau OFM Cap.
- Carmela Cruz
- Elizabeth Sutcliffe
- Amanda Seymour
- Antonio Balogh
- MC: Pavel Reid

## Schedule of Events

- 12:00 pm** Celebration of Mass
  - St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View St.
  - St. Patrick's Church, 2060 Haultain St.
- 1:30 pm** Pro-Life Ministry Fair in Centennial Square
- 2:00 pm** March to Legislature from Centennial Square (beside Victoria City Hall), down Government street to BC Legislature
- 2:30 pm** Rally for Life outside Legislature on front lawn. Speakers and music until 3:30 pm
- 5:00 pm** Pro-Life Gala in support of the youth of the pro-life movement
  - St. Leopald's Church Hall, 4081 Gordon Head Road
  - Tickets: \$35.00 by April 30th

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Centennial

Square

to the

BC Legislature

Diocesan Messenger – April 2014

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by Terri-Ann Wynans  
 Photo credits: Terri-Ann Wynans and Kelly Bourke

For the past 12 years, youth from around our Diocese have gathered at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island for a life-changing weekend of faith building, fun and friends.

We were pleased to welcome back for their third visit the *Face to Face* Ministries Team, led by Ken Yasinski from Saskatoon. Just over 150 youth and chaperones from around the Diocese gathered January 31 – February 2, 2014, for a weekend of faith lessons, fun times and great food!

The 2014 theme of *iBelieve* was echoed throughout the weekend in prayer, song and message. The following statements were made by youth participants at the end of our weekend together:

***Did you experience God, really feel his presence and His love? When?***

- I experienced God for the first time in a powerful way when I was in Adoration during the song *I Need You*—I felt as if God was right there with me.
- I felt his presence very firmly in Reconciliation when Fr. Stephen lifted his hands and relieved me of my sins. It was as if a pure, happy wave flooded through me.
- I learned how to connect better with Christ and who Christ was.
- I learned how to humble myself, confess honestly and the importance of putting God at the Centre of my life.
- Ken and the group did an exceptional job. The singing was great and the talks with Ken were something you can't forget. He is an amazing and inspirational man.

***What is one thing you heard this weekend that sticks in your head and touched you or made you think?***

- God loves us more than we could ever love Him.
- Jesus really is everything I need.
- I asked God to show me the way.
- The different levels of Love and how much God loves us to have [given up] his Son for us.

***What Did You Like Best This Weekend?***

- It helped me to better understand the Lord's way and gave me a better understanding for my upcoming Confirmation and First Communion.
- How we all came together as one group.
- I liked the amazing time of musical Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity to surrender myself publicly to God.
- What I liked best about this retreat was entering more into God's presence. I never really gave everything to him, but I am totally committed to him now just as I now know that he is to me.

***What is the Main Thing You Learned This Weekend?***

- I learned about the question "Who is Jesus?" and the answer is now clear to me ... He is heroic love, he is God's Son and He is the Way, the Truth and the Life that we should all want to be like.
- The importance of putting God at the centre of my life.
- How God's love is expressed in everything we do here.
- That I have to make the choice to believe in Jesus. There has been proof, but I need to choose what I do with my faith.
- I learned a lot more about the Eucharist and my belief in it grew tremendously.
- Who Jesus is and how to apply that knowledge to our lives.

Retreat Coordinators Bonni Roset of Campbell River and Terri-Ann Wynans of Port Alberni are grateful for the support received from the Diocesan Youth Office, the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, the Knights of Columbus Council #5456 Campbell River, St. Patrick's Campbell River CWL, and Knights of Columbus Council #4597 Courtenay for their financial and prayerful support of this retreat. We also extend a special thanks to Fr. Jan (Campbell River), Fr. Stephen (Port Alberni), Fr. Mel (Parksville), Fr. Sean (Mill Bay), and Br. Carlos and Fr. Dan (Franciscan Friary) for joining us during the weekend to celebrate Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration.

Plans are already underway for the 13th Annual Retreat at Camp Homewood—mark your calendars for January 30, 31 and February 1, 2015. Our theme is "Chosen Generation" and our retreat leaders once again are the Face to Face Ministries Team. Information packages will be sent out to Parishes and Youth Leaders in late September. ✠









# UVic Students Retreat at the Poor Clare Sisters

by Kayla Hart

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, a group of about 20 UVic Catholic students carpooled up-island for an annual retreat with the Poor Clare Sisters in Duncan—a tradition since 1999. The “day” lasted about five hours and included short reflections and two separate hours of quiet prayer time (one hour of which involved Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament). There was also free time during lunch to socialize, go for a walk in the rain, or to continue prayer and reflection in the chapel or library.

The main recurring theme of the retreat came from the Ash Wednesday scripture reading from the book of Joel, with the particular translation urging us to allow our hearts to be broken. The Sisters offered reflections on the lives of St. Peter, St. Francis and St. Clare, and how their stories all had moments of suffering in which Christ was able to work more fully in their lives, like the scriptures from Ezekiel about breaking our hearts of stone to give us a heart of flesh. This idea of stone also tied in Peter’s role as the rock of the Church.

“... the day was a blessed beginning to the Lenten season.

At the end of the day, each student was invited to pick a rock from among an assortment the Sisters had laid out at the base of the Altar. The rocks were as diverse as the students—large and small, smooth and textured, heavy and light, some more fragile and beat up than others—and they “spoke” to each student differently. The rocks were ours to take as a visible symbol to reflect on in our own prayer lives beyond the weekend—symbols of ourselves and what we’ve been through, symbols of God’s strength at work in our lives, and symbols of being open to heartbreak. The half hour or so of sharing at the end of the retreat showed the effectiveness of the Sisters’ reflections, as well as our receptiveness. Some students spoke of things from the talks, or asked questions of the Sisters, but most of the sharing came back to our individual rocks.

When the retreat ended and we bid farewell to the Sisters, the day was fortunately not over. Continuing a tradition started at last year’s Poor Clare retreat, a home-cooked dinner was waiting minutes away at the home of Jackie Cleaves, the mother of CSA Vice President Hailey Cleaves. After a quiet day of much needed prayer, we had the opportunity to connect more fully with each other. There was no shortage of food or fellowship. Overall, the day was a blessed beginning to the Lenten Season. ✂



## Get Ready!

by Fr. Dean Henderson

It’s time to get ready for Diocese’s Second Annual Family Conference—in a new venue, but with the anticipation of the all the joy of last year at Shawnigan Lake.

The Marriage and Family Life committee has been praying and planning hard and are pleased to offer families an early July summer camp environment at Camp Barnard in Sooke (check out their camp website at [www.campbarnard.ca](http://www.campbarnard.ca))—for an entire weekend at less than the cost of a single night last year!

Royal Oak Golf Club Chef Tony Aro will be serving up a great camp menu and we’re excited to have Pavel Reid of the Archdiocese of Vancouver’s Family Office speak to us on the theme *Building Each Other Up in the Love of Christ*. Some of the Catholic Christian Outreach missionaries in town (see *The Campus Mission*, page 15) will be joining us to lead ministry amongst our children and youth, and music ministry will be offered by Couples for Christ.

While we pray and hope for a new Bishop to join us, I will serve as Camp Chaplain and ensure other clergy come and serve the spiritual and sacramental needs of the families. Last year we had a great mix of our Diocesan family present; grandparents, children and babies, single and married parents; however, this year we pray for more “North of the Malahat” folk.

Check out our registration on the Diocesan website ([www.rcdvictoria.org](http://www.rcdvictoria.org)) or speak with Fr. Dean: [catholic@uvic.ca](mailto:catholic@uvic.ca); or Reine and Ian Mykyte: [reine\\_and\\_ian@hotmail.com](mailto:reine_and_ian@hotmail.com). ✂



## Crestwell Leadership Camp 2014: BRAVE

by Olivia Pearse

“It’s fun. It’s inspiring. It’s just fantastic all around,” said 13-year-old Anne van der Sloot about the Crestwell Leadership Camp last year. This summer, the Crestwell Cultural Centre, in Vancouver, is holding their 3rd Annual Leadership Camp for teenaged girls from August 10 – 14. The theme this year is *Brave*.

Three years ago, a group of young women sought out a way to influence and support the lives of teenage girls as they journey through the faith-challenging hallways of their high schools. These women understood the various challenges met at high school, and saw the need to have an all-girls camp where participants could learn vital virtues and valuable life skills.

The camp is meant to help girls be brave and confident in understanding who they are so they can be good leaders and members of society. In today’s culture, the influence of media and fads can make it difficult for young girls to discover their personal identity as daughters of God, and to have the confidence to act accordingly.

The media encourages young people with slogans to “follow their dream”, and “be themselves.” Yet media also imposes a narrow example of what they should look like and how they should act. It’s no surprise that young people are confused and hungry for truth when the media’s message is inconsistent with what they portray.

The young women of Crestwell, however, wish to challenge young girls to be brave; to provide young girls with a fun opportunity to discover and enhance their individual potential. Through workshops, teambuilding, spiritual activities, and individual mentoring, they help girls become leaders who will share their gifts and leave a lasting impact on their friends, families and society as a whole.

The Crestwell Leadership Camp is for girls in grades 6 to 12 and takes place at Camp Charis in Chilliwack. Cost: grades 6-9 \$320; grades 10-12 \$370 (arriving a day earlier, on August 9th). The camp’s spiritual activities are entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.

It’s fun. It’s inspiring. It’s just fantastic all around. This camp is a unique opportunity for young Catholic girls, and it couldn’t come at a more crucial time in their lives; a time when standing up for your faith and identity is a battle; a time when we are called, in Christ, to be *Brave*.

For further info: Anastasia Pearse, [crestwellcamps@gmail.com](mailto:crestwellcamps@gmail.com), (604) 365-3484. ✂

## Vocations Road Trip

by Fr. Dean Henderson

The Vocations Road trip (March 28 – 29, 2014) was *fantastic* and we hope it will be repeated in the future. What a great adventure in Christ!

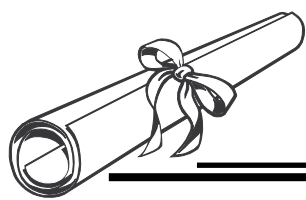
There were twelve guys and two priests in one van; vocation stories from six priests and one sister in four different parishes, all-night Adoration, Masses, praying the Rosary, hikes, beers, and laughs—all while saying “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.”

One of the participants had this to say about his experience:

*I want to communicate my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your support and effort in making the vocations trip happen. Beyond the delightful experience, I can tell you from my own experience that it was instrumental in bringing me closer to God and in helping me in my discernment. The experience and wisdom of God shared through Frs. Stephen, David, Sean, Alfredo, Joseph, and Dean beautifully inspired, nurtured, and invigorated my prayer life and relationship with God. I also want to extend my gratitude to the parishioners in Port Alberni for the charity of delicious food. Thanks to all these efforts, the vocations trip will become an important marker in my faith journey.*

This was clearly a blessed and holy first annual event. Thanks, Holy Family/Notre Dame in Port Alberni, and all the orgnaizers, for making it possible! ✂





# The Campus Mission



by Fr. Dean Henderson

I've never read much of her beyond an odd quote or heard much beyond anecdotal ecclesial legend, but as providence would have it, *the Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena* came my way for Lent.

She's the tough mystic whose spirituality was shaped in the domestic chaotic charity of a family of 25 children, of whom 13 survived into adulthood. Catherine likely would have understood Chesterton's parallel of the large family to a little kingdom because both are always on the verge of anarchy. She was a mystic from the earliest age, and counselled popes: "Christ, Mary, angels and saints appeared to her from the time she was six; even Pope Gregory XI heeded her requests and returned home to Rome from Avignon." (Preface of the *Dialogue*)

Along with a very few select Saints like Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio, Catherine received the wounds of Christ, commonly called the *stigmata*. Jesus doesn't share his suffering with just anybody, so when this saint speaks, we should all listen. In one of her dialogues, God reveals the root of evil that infects the whole of contemporary culture. "In the same way *self-love*, which destroys charity and affection towards the neighbour, is the principle and foundation of every evil. All scandals, hatred, cruelty, and every sort of trouble proceed from this perverse root of *self-love*, which has poisoned the entire world, and weakened the mystical body of the Holy Church, and the universal body of believers in the Christian religion."

The antidote for this poison? Simple: love of neighbour which God reveals to Catherine is love of Him! This is the essence of resurrection reality; for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ... Divine and total self-giving for sinful humanity.

But wait a minute, isn't it "all about *me*?" Isn't it *my* body? Isn't it my duty to look out for number one? Well, according to St. Catherine and all of the Christian tradition the answer is "no." Sorry to be so blunt. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta said it this way: "Your life is *not* all about you."

Oddly enough, the most popular Mass of the year (with over 50 participating) at the UVic interfaith Chapel is the Ash Wednesday commencement of Lent; our pledge of self-denial and renewed love for neighbour and God. This intensely counter-cultural message of losing oneself for love of God and other, far from repulsing young minds and hearts is actually attracting them (granted not *all* of them—yet).

We have been joyously preparing four student souls for the Easter Vigil Sacrament of New Life throughout the year in the RCIA class. The class includes the catechumens, their student sponsors, a few students who want to brush up on Catholic basics, and even some latecomers who are hoping to join RCIA next year. This "death to self through love for Christ" permeates campus ministry with an expansive joy. Over Lent, three student women travelled to explore their vocation with the contemplative Dominicans in Squamish, one grad left to join the cloistered Benedictines in Colorado. 13 young men joined Fr. David Hogman and me on a Vocations Road Trip to Port Alberni, one of whom has been accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese, another who is pursuing a vocation with the Franciscans.

“The antidote for this poison? Simple: love of neighbour which God reveals to Catherine is love of Him! This is the essence of resurrection reality; for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ... Divine and total self-giving for sinful humanity.

Our Christ-inspired ministry to care for our hurting neighbours, to seek and save the lost, to proclaim liberty to those trapped in the darkness and unhappy isolation of self-love, will receive a huge shot of holy adrenalin with the arrival of Catholic Christian Outreach this summer. This Canadian campus ministry specializes in the ministry of the new evangelization and about 30 student missionaries will arrive early May for their *Summer Impact!* Five parishes: St. Andrew's, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart and Holy Cross, will receive teams of students who will serve the Catholic community in the See city while preparing to leave behind three staff to join me in campus ministry in September.

All I can say is "praise God" that the grace-inspired battle to renounce self-love in exchange for other-love is catching on. ✠



## Connections



by Greg Van Dyk, UVic Catholic Students' Association President

### Five Myths About Confession

I have a confession to make: Confession isn't all that fun. It's not. And maybe that's why our Church has seen such a decline in the number of folks who frequent the Sacrament. It's no secret that Confession has dropped in popularity. If the Seven Sacraments were invited to a dinner party, Confession would be off sitting in the corner by himself.

Even though Confession isn't necessarily easy or enjoyable, it is absolutely necessary. The Church has high moral standards—She demands we all become saints! We often can't live up to these ideals, and so many people opt to scrap the standards (throw out Church teaching) rather than strive for holiness and fail. This, I think, is because the mercy found in Confession is a treasure that many Catholics have forgotten or not yet discovered. It is the missing piece of the puzzle.

“In the words of Pope Francis, 'Be courageous, and go to Confession.'

As Fr. Robert Barron says, the "Catholic Church couples its extraordinary moral demand with an extraordinarily lenient penitential system." Yes, standards are high, but mercy is equally great. By embracing Confession, we are given additional grace to live holy lives, and the seemingly idealistic rules of the Church are put into context.

So, why the decline in Confession? Many factors, of course, but I think there are a few misconceptions surrounding the Sacrament that are keeping people from Christ's mercy. In the same spirit of a popular Discovery Channel TV show, it's time to do some serious myth busting on the topic of confession. There's no "Buster" the test dummy, but here we go:

#### Myth #1: Confession is only for really big sinners.

No, everyone in line for Confession isn't involved in organized crime. It's actually healthy to go to Confession frequently, not just for big stuff. Pope Francis recently said, "We are all sinners. Even the pope goes to confession every two weeks because the pope, too, is a sinner."

#### Myth #2: The priest will be harsh. Maybe even scary!

Although we can't deny that peoples' experiences vary, we encounter the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus through the Sacrament. As Pope Francis said recently about Confession, "Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, [will be] there, and Jesus is better than the priests—Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love!"

#### Myth #3: I have to memorize everything.

Although it's a smart idea to prepare with a good Examination of Conscience beforehand, you can put down the books and flashcards. Priests understand. If you haven't been to Confession in years (or never!), give the priest a heads-up. He'll gladly guide you through the process, and most have prayer cards available with all the prayers you'll need. If you honestly forget to mention a few sins, they are still forgiven—as long as you then confess them next time!

#### Myth #4: General Absolution has replaced Confession.

This one is tricky, only because there's a history of confusion. General Absolution involves the priest absolving a group of penitents at the same time, without the individual confession of sins. This only works if you then confess your sins individually at the soonest opportunity possible. Thus the whole 'group forgiveness' thing is really only called for in case of natural disaster or crisis when there are no other options. No, running late for your bus doesn't count as such an emergency.

#### Myth #5: I don't have any sins to confess!

This might be an awkward spot to tell you this, being a Diocesan newspaper and all, but: you do. I do. Everyone does. Swore when you stubbed your toe? Gossiped? Missed Sunday Mass because you couldn't PVR the game? Pull out that trusty-dusty Examination of Conscience, and it should get you rolling. Our lines for Confession should be as long as our lines for Holy Communion.

Now that the myths are busted, the truth is clear: this Lenten season, we should all commit to making a good Confession. For some, it will be their first in years, for others it might be their first ever. Regardless, all will find the healing mercy of Jesus and freedom from sin. In the words of Pope Francis, "Be courageous, and go to Confession." ✠







by Bonnie Landry

**“Families, become what you are!”**

Don’t we all love that? Blessed Pope John Paul II provides families with a rally cry. We’ve got this gut feeling that he’s captured what we are trying to do. We are trying to live out family life in the fullest way possible. But what are we? What are we supposed to be, what are we supposed to do?

I’m almost finished reading *Familiaris Consortio*, which, to my everlasting shame, I have only read quotes and excerpts from until now. I have bit of a tough time reading anything that has a Latin title. I know, it’s a knee-jerk reaction, but I can’t help it. As it turns out this exhortation, written by Blessed Pope John Paul II, is the source of “Families, become what you are!” It is also the How-To Manual to help families (a) know what they are; and (b) understand what they are supposed to do.

*Familiaris Consortio* defines what a family is: its identity. “A family is an intimate community of life and love.” It also defines what a family does, what it can and should do: its mission. The mission of the family is to “Guard, reveal and communicate love.

It is all about relationships—our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. God is pretty clear about what our relationships are supposed to look like—and what they’re *not* supposed to look like.

*Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”*

*The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

*Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.”*

*They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?”*

*He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”*

We do for Christ when we do for others. “Others” includes our family members. I kid you not—in fact, I would venture so far as to say that our family members are the most significant “others”. I’ll grant, it’s easy to do for someone who doesn’t mouth off at you, or leave their stuff lying all over the house. Or who asks you a

question at least every three minutes from the moment they get up in the morning until their sleepy little eyes stop peeping open to see if you are still there. Or who gets you up at night, or has your car keys when you need them. It’s easy to be nice to the person behind you at the grocery store.

How we respond to our family members is *how we respond to Christ*.

Ouch, I say. Does that include when I’m grumpy and miserable and tired and overwhelmed and sick? Dang. That’s bad. Because I have a hard time remembering.

I’m pretty sure that if Jesus was bodily standing in my living room, I would not be snarky with him. But I have to remember that Jesus gets the brunt of what my “others” receive. Two things, I think, need to be addressed. The first is how to help myself remember.

“Families, become what you are. Be the benchmark, the standard ... Be the good the world needs ...

How to remember, indeed. Regular, habitual prayer. Sacramentals in the home. A home need not look like a Church, but certainly it should look like a domestic Church. Visible reminders of our faith should be part of the culture of our homes. Physical, tangible things, like statues, pictures, holy cards and prayers should be visible. These things help us pray always. They help us remember.

Small acts of sacrifice help, too. Mini-fasts, giving up some small thing, giving away the last of something, waiting another hour. These actions develop self control. Self control in one area, like the desires of our stomach, develop self control of other areas, like the words that come out our mouths.

The second is good news: we are families, intimate communities of life and love. Most of you probably already are that ... or at least, like me, long for being an intimate community of life and love.

In living out our desire to be healthy families, holy families, to the best of our ability, we accomplish the larger mission of evangelizing a wounded culture. God gives us a little mission, “be an intimate community of life and love.” When we define our families in this way, we live out the mission well beyond our own nuclear families. We become apostolic. Just being families, we become missionaries, guarding what God intended love to be and revealing it to the world, in the way we communicate and respond to our spouses and children.

*Families, become what you are.* Be the benchmark, the standard. Be the family that others would like to model themselves after. Be the good the world needs, so, so badly. ✂

## Discern This

by Fr. Scott Whitemore

**“Have you given your life to Christ? It is a real adventure!”**

Those are the words I needed to hear at that time of my life, at that moment when they were directed at me. I was 35 and had been living a rather adventurous life for the previous 15 or so years. I thrived on adventure and was often planning the next trip, whether that trip was backpacking or climbing in the Coast Mountains; back country skiing in the Chilcotin wilderness; being flown in a bush plane or helicopter to some remote, mountainous place, and finding my way back out; exploring a part of the Amazon jungle in Brazil; trekking to Mt. Everest; or meeting the late Mother Teresa in Calcutta. I was a consumer of adventurous experiences.

One of my adventures took me to the Catholic community of Madonna House in Combermere, Ontario. It is a community of something like 200 celibate lay men and women, living a rather simple and Christ-centered life, together with priests and many guests. While there, on a wintry day, I was out in the forest with a few other guests, splitting firewood. Near to me was a guy who had once been a biker, who had travelled extensively and had numerous stories of his own adventures. He was preparing to be ordained a transitional deacon, on his way to ordination as a priest. “Have you given your life to Christ?” he asked me. I didn’t know what to say. I didn’t know what he meant. It seemed like a strange thing to be asking me. Before I could say anything, he asserted, “*It is a real adventure!*”

At that time of my life, the Holy Spirit was giving me a bit of a work-over. A few months earlier I had come to this Catholic community, intending to stay only a month. I had arrived knowing very little about my Catholic faith, but there I learned much about it. I learned by living it with the members of Madonna House. It is there where I learned to integrate prayer into my daily life. It was there that I had the opportunity to attend daily Mass and to frequently receive the Sacrament of Confession. It was there where I learned to allow Jesus and Our Lady to be a more central part of my life. It was there where I learned to make many sacrifices out of love for the others I lived in community with. It was this living out of my Catholic faith that allowed me to be more available to the work of God’s grace in my life, and to direct me.

There were a number of internal struggles going on within me, as some worldly ways and attitudes resisted yielding to the ways of Truth and Love. One of my internal struggles was with regard to the adventures I sought out and relied upon for a certain sense of identity, challenge and fulfillment. I had been struggling with the thought that they held a place in my life that was too important to me, but I couldn’t let them go. At least not until I heard those words: “Have you given your life to Christ? It is a real adventure!”

Yes, life in Christ has been an enormous adventure, eventually bringing me into the greatest adventure of my life: the priesthood. It was a long, adventurous road to the priesthood, and since then there has been a never-ending lineup of many new adventures—most of which I would have never chosen for myself.

Madonna House can be a good place to help a person discern their vocation in life, whether a vocation to the consecrated single life or to marriage, or to a life as a religious sister or brother, or as a priest. I found that the living out of our Christian faith in a place of “Catholic immersion” can help clear away a lot of worldly rubbish that gets in the way of hearing and responding to God’s calling to the adventures He has in mind for us.

Interested in finding out more about the adventure of a lifetime? Talk to your pastor or call the Diocese’s Vocation Director, Fr. Sean, at (250) 479-1331. ✂

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# Faith Matters



by James E. O'Reilly, Office of Religious Education

## The Valley of Tears and How to Cross the Bar

There was a time when it was not uncommon to hear one's elders refer to life as "a valley of tears." And despite a hint of resignation there is also a discomfiting ring of truth to the phrase.

Perhaps this was because life was a lot more difficult in general, or so it seemed. Medicine, much less sophisticated then, was attempting to deal with a long list of diseases which were either fatal, disfiguring or incurable. Every neighbourhood had their blind, their crippled, and their hushed stories of agonizing death. The memory of war's devastation was a common part of conversation and the personal costs could be seen in any crowd. Work seemed to be predominantly associated with a lot more physical demands and safety less a preoccupation. Everyone had some horrific story of a logging, machinery or car accident.

Our daily lives are constantly in flux with the storms that rage and test, the doldrums that try and torment, the steady winds that drive and delight, the calms that bring relief and restore, not to mention having to navigate the rocks and shoals of temptation and deceit.

The reality of course was that life probably wasn't better or worse, just different; it just seemed more "black and white" as were "television sets" then. People were "lucky" or just "sucked it up" and got on with life the best they could. It was also a time when people were "tough," stoicism was held up as an ideal, people "suffered in silence," and "offered it up." The media was in its infancy, was definitely less pervasive, and much less influential. Leisure was something reserved for the "idle rich." Sympathy was more common than today's rampant entitlement; patience in adversity was a virtue and road rage was never heard of.

Clearly our lives today are better in many ways. Medicine, science and technology have improved quality of life, longevity, productivity and efficiency, and made leisure time a common expectation. We still have struggles of course, but our struggles have shifted more from the external to the internal. Drugs have eliminated pain and disease, but escape through drug abuse has taken on epidemic proportions. War, terrorism and famine are something we associate with other places, while violence plagues formerly quiet neighbourhoods, and suicide is epidemic in some communities. People seem to be hypersensitive, more vocal about bruised sensibilities. The courts have moved from protecting the vulnerable to protecting powerful interests, with interest groups trumping the collective common good. Self-determined spirituality is in vogue while organized religion is held as suspect. Rather than being able to think for ourselves, the "media" sets the stage and the script; if it's not politically correct the polity is quick to condemn. Correction apparently is not an option when subjective absolutes prevail, mercy being at a premium when libertarian relativism dominates the day.

"Vanity of Vanities, says the Preacher! All is vanity...there nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:1-9)

Have things really changed? The author of Ecclesiastes should cause us to pause. When we think about it human culture changes—what's in vogue, who's setting trends, what piques human interest or curiosity—all of this changes constantly. Human nature is another thing. Our capacity to be kind, patient, truthful, and just are all a reflection of the divine image, our true nature, while the human propensity to be uncharitable, impatient, deceitful, unethical reflect those behaviours which reflect a fallen nature—that which is contrary to all that is good, all that God intended us to be. While we have little control over the "changing seas" around us, we do have control over our response to them, and in light of the Easter Event "changing seas" can be a means of transformation.

The changing seas of culture are constantly challenging our values, testing us. But, to extend the metaphor, no sailor worthy to be called one has never been tested. Our daily lives are constantly in flux with the storms that rage and test, the doldrums that try and torment, the steady winds that drive and delight, the calms that bring relief and restore, not to mention having to navigate the rocks and shoals of temptation and deceit.

It is the weathering of what life sends us that hones our skills and brings out the best in us, if we are thoroughly grounded with the proper knowledge and skills. Life's challenges demand we all be master mariners, but how does one become a master mariner of life? For the Christian, Christ—he who walked upon the water—is the Master Mariner who shows the way. And what is the way that he shows us? It is the way of Faith, marked by a sure knowledge of our faith and trust in God no matter what the conditions life throws at us, be they calm seas, running seas, or limb-splintering, heart rending storms.

The "Barque of Peter" recalls an ancient symbol of the Church, the New Testament's corollary to Noah's Ark. From this image we can derive some helpful symbolic guides in our training to become master mariners as we navigate the High Seas of life:

*A sound hull and a deep keel*—a relationship with Christ through a life of prayer held tight by regularity and consistency, the weight and depth of which will help keep us moving forward and which will bring us up when buffeted and knocked down;

*A mast and trimmed sails*—keeping the Cross of Christ before us at all times and an unfurled openness to the breath of the Holy Spirit is important; to be true to the first demands our attention, to be true to the second demands our readiness to respond;

*A good compass and accurate charts*—an understanding of and attentiveness to the sound teachings of Mother Church, the means for showing us both the true direction and the right course for a safe passage;

*A strong hand and a stout tiller*—the captain, the head of the ship, has his hand on the tiller for he is charged with the responsibility of the safety of crew and cargo. As the captain entrusts the tiller to a helmsman so too has Christ our captain has entrusted Peter and his successors to steer the Church;

*A good set of oars*—those members of the Christian community who can support us when we've lost our wind or our way, those who pull with us will also pull us through;

*A secure anchor*—hope in Christ is our best security; and,

*A keen eye, a ready hand, a cool head and a brave heart*—the mariner must always be watching for changes: in the weather, the wind, the tides, and the water, and know what must be done, and be ready and confident to do it. A life of prayerful reflection, knowing and studying the Scriptures and Tradition, participating in the life of the Sacraments, serving our brothers and sisters, familiarizes us with and attunes us to what is genuinely good, and conditions us to be ready, willing and able to respond to life's changes and challenges.

These days we are navigating the waters of Lent. This gift, this annual "refit" and "sea trial" gives us the opportunity to practice intentionally those dispositions and skills we need to have at the ready as we face the high seas of life—the currents, shoals, reefs and changing tides of the constantly roiling and frequently hostile culture around us. While these are familiar waters, for we have sailed them before, each time the conditions we face are a bit different.

A good passage demands attentiveness, readiness, perseverance and trust. Through these days we sail with our Captain through his greatest storm of suffering. Christ, overcome by storm and sea, had gone down to the depths—only to resurface once again, triumphantly. Regardless the age or the times—and often it seems a valley of tears—we too must embrace the storm, endure the angry seas of life, with trust and love as he did. In learning the lessons of the Master, we too will resurface with him. ✠

## BURSARY



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**For an application form, please contact:**

**administration@ssabc.ca or 250-592-3133**







## Pope: Confession is an experience of love & mercy, not a sentencing court

On Friday morning in the Hall of Blessings, Pope Francis received in audience 600 participants in the annual course of the internal forum of the Apostolic Penitentiary. For a quarter of a century this dicastery has offered the course, especially to recently ordained priests and deacons, to contribute to the formation of good confessors.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news>.

## JRS Syria wins Pax Christi International Peace Award 2014

The 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award has been granted to the Jesuit Refugee Service Syria (JRS Syria) for its outstanding dedication in providing emergency relief to Syrians since the war began in 2011. Established in 1988, the Award is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honours contemporary individuals and organisations who make a stand for peace, justice and non-violence in different parts of the world.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news>.

## Women in the Church - Vatican Radio special report

As Pope Francis declares the need for more women in decision making areas, an annual pilgrimage in Rome is focussing on the nearly forgotten role of women in the early Church. A Vatican Radio special report on putting women back in the picture. Vatican Radio writes that rediscovering and re-evaluating the role of women in early Christianity is the goal of the pilgrimage taking place in Rome under the auspices of a US based Catholic group seeking greater leadership roles for women in the Church today.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news>.

## New Christian Aid report shows human cost of climate change

Christian Aid has published a new report today, showing the devastating effects of climate change, with communities worldwide, particularly in worst hit poorer countries, being forced to change their way of life. While record-breaking floods in the UK received massive media coverage, along with broad acceptance that climate change was to blame, the voices of those suffering even greater impacts have largely gone unheard.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com>

## Pope advises Italy's Parliamentarians: make the effort to open up to God

In the time of Jesus, the governing class had distanced itself from the people, abandoning them by pursuing their own ideologies and sliding ever downwards into corruption. That's what Pope Francis said Thursday morning in his homily at Mass in St Peter's Basilica, in the presence of nearly 500 Members of the Italian Parliament. Most members of Italy's Parliament attended the Mass, including nine ministers and the Speakers of the Senate and the House.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com>

## Pope Francis Receives President Obama

Pope Francis and President Obama met this morning. In a statement the Vatican said they discussed "current international themes" and expressed the hope that "in areas of conflict there would be respect for humanitarian and international law and a negotiated solution between the parties involved". in the context of bilateral relations between the US and the Holy See, the Pope and the President discussed "questions of particular relevance for the Church in that country, such as the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection, as well as immigration reform.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com>

# National Week for Life and the Family: May 11-18, 2014

CCCB Media Release, Tuesday, March 18, 2014

The second National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated across Canada May 11 – 18, 2014, in accordance with the plans, priorities and resources of each diocese. As agreed by the Permanent Council and the Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), the Conference is again offering dioceses, parishes and other non-profit groups possible resources and options for planning and organizing local activities. The theme for this year is Families united in the joy of the Lord" / "Parents à l'œuvre dans la joie de Jésus Christ. The theme in French is linked to the Quebec provincial theme, Parents à l'œuvre! The dates for this year's National Week for Life and the Family coincide in part with those for the 2014 Semaine québécoise des familles, and also with the United Nations World Day of Families, May 15.

To read more about the National Week for Life and the Family, visit [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca). ✂

# Canadian Sr. Gilberte Bussière CND Kidnapped in Cameroon

Press Release from the Congrégation de Notre-Dame, April 5, 2014

It is with great concern and sadness that we have learned of the kidnapping by a group of armed men of our sister Gilberte Bussière and two Italian priests, last night, in Tchéré, North Cameroon. We have very little information about the kidnapping at this point. Embassies have been notified and the General Leadership Team of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame is following the situation closely.

“Health permitting, I will joyfully return to assist our Cameroonian sisters ... God alone knows what our future holds.”

All Sisters and Associates of the Congregation are united in prayer in support of Sister Gilberte and the two priests who were also abducted. We extend our prayerful support to their families and friends.

Sister Gilberte Bussière (Sister Sainte-Marie-de-l'Assomption) was born September 12, 1939 in Asbestos, QC. She entered the Congrégation de Notre-Dame in August 1957. Between 1959 and 1979, she taught in Lac Mégantic and Arthabaska. She left on mission for Cameroon in 1979 and she has been there ever since.

She was in Maroua for the past 18 years. Sister Gilberte was schoolteacher and school principal; she helped in the formation of teachers and did pastoral work. She is still actively involved in educational work and works closely with families.

When she came back to Canada last year for health reasons, Sister Gilberte expressed her eagerness to return to the country and the people she loved: "Health permitting, I will joyfully return to assist our Cameroonian sisters and the school children of Tchéré. God alone knows what our future holds." ✂

*Please join us in praying for the safety of Sr. Gilberte and the two Italian priests, and for all those who carry the message and love of Jesus into situations that are sometimes dangerous. For more information, and for updates, please visit [www.cnd-m.org/en/news/index.php](http://www.cnd-m.org/en/news/index.php).*

# Francis Starts Festival of Forgiveness by Going to Confession

Vatican City, March 28, 2014 (Zenit.org)

Pope Francis chose to first receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before himself beginning to hear confessions during the Festival of Forgiveness, the 24 Hours for the Lord, that he [led] from Rome for the Church worldwide.

The 24 Hours initiative began [in the afternoon on March 28] in Rome and [ended] Saturday, March 29.

Dioceses across the globe have responded to the Pope's call to host their own 24 Hours, having priests available for confession around the clock.

Francis apparently surprised the master of ceremonies during the opening ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, as the Holy Father first moved to make his own confession before entering the confession booth indicated him.

The 24 Hours for the Lord initiative is being sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. Officials from the council told ZENIT both that the initiative has received "enormous support" around the world, and also that it is hoped it will become a Lenten tradition. ✂



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Photo: Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas prepares to bless the Easter fire in one of Canada's Northernmost missions.

Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

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In his opening address on October 11, 1962, at the beginning of the Vatican Council, Pope John said, “In the every day exercise of our pastoral ministry, greatly to our sorrow we sometimes have to listen to those who, although consumed with zeal, do not have very much judgment or balance. To them the modern world is nothing but betrayal and ruination. They claim that this age is far worse than previous ages and they go on as though they had learned nothing from history and yet history is the great teacher of life.

On that same night of October 11, 1962, the day of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Papa Giovanni appeared at his window in answer to the chanting and singing below from a crowd estimated at half a million people assembled in St. Peter’s square:

“*Cari giovani, cari giovani*, Dear children, I hear your voice.” In the simplest language, he told them about his hopes for the Council. He pointed out that the moon, up there, was observing the spectacle. “My voice is an isolated one,” he said, “but it echoes the voice of the whole world. Here, in effect, the whole world is represented.” He concluded: “*Tornando a casa* ... As you return to your homes, give your little children a kiss — tell them it is from Pope John.”

**Blessed John Paul II: The Pope of Holiness**

Karol Wojtyla was an extraordinary witness who, through his devotion, heroic efforts, long suffering and death, communicated the powerful message of the Gospel to the men and women of our day. A great part of the success of his message is due to the fact that he has been surrounded by a tremendous cloud of witnesses who stood by him and strengthened him throughout his life. For John Paul II, the call to holiness excludes no one; it is not the privilege of a spiritual elite.

Throughout his priestly and Episcopal ministry, and especially during his Petrine Ministry as Bishop of Rome, John Paul II preached God’s mercy, wrote about it, and lived it. He offered forgiveness to the man who was destined to kill him in St. Peter’s Square. The Pope who witnessed the scandal of divisions among Christians and the atrocities against the Jewish people as he grew up did everything in his power to heal the wounds caused by the historic conflicts between Catholics and other Christian churches, and especially with the Jewish people.

**The Pope of Divine Mercy**

Near the beginning of his pontificate in 1981, Pope John Paul II wrote an entire encyclical dedicated to Divine Mercy – *Dives in Misericordia* illustrating that the heart of the mission of Jesus Christ was to reveal the merciful love of the Father.

In the Jubilee year 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina – making her the first canonized saint of the new millennium – and established “Divine Mercy Sunday” as a special title for the Second Sunday of Easter for the universal Church.

Why did Pope John Paul II insist so much on God’s divine mercy and love in our time? Is this not the same devotion as that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus? Mercy is an important Christian virtue, much different from justice and retribution. While recognizing the real pain of injury and the rationale for the justification of punishment, mercy takes a different approach in redressing the injury. Mercy strives to radically change the condition and the soul of the perpetrator to resist doing evil, often by revealing love and one’s true beauty. If any punishment is enforced, it must be for salvation, not for vengeance or retribution. This is very messy business in our day and a very complex message but it is the only way if we wish to go forward and be leaven for the world today.

Where hatred and the thirst for revenge dominate, where war brings suffering and death to the innocent, abuse has destroyed countless innocent lives, the grace of mercy is needed in order to settle human minds and hearts and to bring about healing and peace. Wherever respect for human life and dignity are lacking, there is need of God’s merciful love, in whose light we see the inexpressible value of every human being. Mercy is needed to insure that every injustice in the world will come to an end. The message of mercy is that God loves us – all of us – no matter how great our sins. Essentially, mercy means the understanding of weakness, the capacity to forgive.

**Santo Subito**

When the throngs of people began chanting “Santo Subito” at the end of John Paul’s funeral mass on April 8, 2005, what were they really chanting? They were crying out that in Karol Wojtyla, they saw someone who lived with God and lived with us. He was a sinner who experienced God’s mercy and forgiveness. He taught us not to be afraid. He showed us how to live, how to love, how to forgive and how to die.

**Canonizations: A Festival of Holiness**

*Vatican Radio, April 1, 2014, Report by Laura Ieraci*

A youth gathering on April 22 at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran and a prayer vigil in all of Rome’s parishes on the eve of the highly anticipated canonizations Popes John XXIII and John Paul II. These are two of the major events leading up to the April 27 canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

At a press conference held at the Vatican [on March 31], the Holy See unveiled some of the events in view of the April 27 canonizations of these much loved Popes. The upcoming canonizations were described as “a true festival of faith” and a “festival of holiness”.

Cardinal Agostino Vallini, Vicar for the Diocese of Rome, urged Christians to live this time in preparation in a more spiritually intense way.

Monsignor Giulio Dellavite, secretary general of the Curia of Bergamo, Pope John XXIII’s home diocese, said the Diocese of Bergamo has set up some charitable projects in Haiti, Albania and Bergamo to mark the canonization. As well, the 900 priests of the diocese have made donations to create a fund for unemployed persons.

In over 27 years as Vicar of Jesus Christ John Paul II tirelessly traveled the world, not only bringing to men and women the Gospel of the love of God made flesh in Jesus Christ, beyond all geographical boundaries; but he also crossed the continents of the spirit, often far from one another and set against each other, to bring strangers close, to make the distant friends, and to make room in the world for the peace of Christ (cf. Eph 2:17). Truly he has been Pontifex, a builder of bridges in a world that too often erects walls and divisions.

**Holiness is the calling card of the Church**

*Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council notes that holiness “is expressed in many ways by the individuals who, each in his own state of life, tend to the perfection of love, thus sanctifying others” (LG 39). In this variety “one and the same holiness is cultivated by all, who are moved by the Spirit of God...and follow the poor Christ, the humble and cross-bearing Christ in order to be worthy of being sharers in his glory” (LG 41).

That a person is declared Blessed or Saint is not a statement about perfection. Beatification and Canonization mean that a person lived his or her life with God, relying totally on God’s infinite mercy, going forward with God’s strength and power, believing in the impossible, loving one’s enemies and persecutors, forgiving in the midst of evil and violence, hoping beyond all hope, and leaving the world a better place. That person lets those around him know that there is a force or spirit animating his or her life that is not of this world, lets us catch a glimpse of the greatness and holiness to which we are all called, and shows us the face of God as we journey on our pilgrim way on earth.

Holiness is the calling card of the Church, the face of the Church as we have seen in the remarkable lives of Angelo Roncalli of Sotto il Monte and Karol Wojtyla of Wadowice. Both of these men did not get caught up in the quarrels, squabbles and passing things of their age. They based their lives on God’s Word, immersed themselves in the liturgy of the Church, drew strength from the Eucharist and the Sacraments, and put their devotion into practice through clear teaching, compassionate loving, gentle yet firm shepherding, patient suffering, and generously serving the poor. They allowed God’s will to be done in their lives on a daily basis. The Lord worked through their doubts, strengths and human weaknesses to unite the Church. Their action on Jesus’ behalf was all very positive, hopeful, courageous, and straightforward. They are the real heroes and role models for those who wish to serve the Lord as disciples and witnesses today.

**Two Righteous Popes**

As millions of Roman Catholics rejoice today in the news that two beloved popes have been fast-tracked to sainthood, many Jews are also smiling with them. Jews throughout the world remember both of these men for taking steps that were a millennium in the making.

As Angelo Roncalli, papal representative in Istanbul during World War II, he provided bogus papers to help Jewish refugees flee the Nazis and escape to Palestine. He personally prodded the Catholic queen of Bulgaria to persuade her husband to protect the Jews of that nation. Roncalli is credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Jews. John XXIII never lost an opportunity to modify church practices that nurtured anti-Semitism.

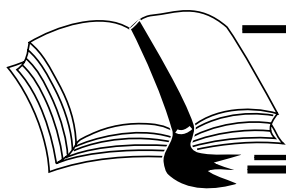
In 1965, the Catholic Church did an about-face regarding anti-Jewish teachings with the release of the ground breaking conciliar document, *Nostra Aetate*. Pope John XXIII, the architect and dreamer of Vatican II, shepherded the Council along even though *Nostra Aetate* was released two years after his death.

**Instruments and agents of Mercy and Tenderness**

As we prepare for Sunday April 27, 2014, the canonizations of these two great servants, may we learn from Papa Giovanni and Papa Wojtyla how to cross thresholds, open doors, build bridges, embrace the Cross of suffering and proclaim the Gospel of Life to the people of our time. May we learn how to be instruments and agents of mercy and tenderness, instead of poor models of harshness, rigidity, and smallness of mind and heart. May they intercede for us and for all, helping us to become real pontifexes, bridge builders, to the men and women of our time.

*Fr. Thomas Rosica is the English language assistant to Holy See Press Office and CEO, Salt and Light Catholic Television Network. Fr. Rosica’s newly released book, John Paul II: A Saint for Canada, is available through Novalis, the publisher, at [www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=7612234](http://www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=7612234)* ✕





# Impressions

*Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right.*  
~ Pope Francis



by Connie Dunwoody

This month on the Internet there's a old story recirculating about a woman on a tour bus in Iceland who joined a search party looking for a missing woman from the tour—not realizing the missing woman was herself.

Reportedly, a bus full of tourists was travelling in the Eldgjá canyon in Iceland. It stopped at a rest area and the woman departed the bus to use the washroom and change her clothes. While she was gone, people started murmuring about a lost passenger and started looking for the woman who they believed wandered away.

When the woman rejoined the others, she didn't recognize the description they gave her—*of herself*—and began earnestly looking for the “missing woman” along with the rest of her bus mates. Nearly 50 people searched the terrain in vehicles and on foot, with the Coast Guard preparing to send in a helicopter. However, around 3 a.m. it became obvious that everyone on the bus was accounted for and the “missing woman” had only changed clothes and “freshened up,”—which is why no one noticed she had rejoined the group.

“Are you lost and know one knows it? ... In our search for *us* has Christ been present in our midst and we did not know *him*??

I stared disbelievingly at my computer screen as I read this, then broke into incredulous guffaws. I shared the story on several occasions over the next week, always with great hilarity and a sense of astonishment. *It's so something I would do*, I cackled. *Imagine that, she didn't even recognize her own description! Did she even know she was lost?* Har, har, chuckle, chuckle.

She was lost, right there in their midst. *And no one knew it.*

That's a rather sobering thought, actually. I started to wonder, *Have I ever been lost and not known it?*

A few years ago my cousin Amy and I pored over a photo album of hers from the 1980s. We barely recognized ourselves. “Who let us out of the house that way?” we shrieked, spluttering with mirth. Asymmetrical hairstyles and gigantic shoulder pads aside, we saw in those photos thinner, less wrinkled, younger versions of ourselves. We were untested by experience and soft with innocence even as our outward appearance proclaimed us worldly wise with all the confidence of youth. We fit right in with the crowd, indistinguishable from a myriad of others. I look at pictures of myself in those days, and see a slim, athletic young woman with an unguarded smile—not that I would have recognized that description of me. Not then.

Amy and I actually look fairly the same now as we did in the 80s (we've been blessed with good genes!), minus the high-waisted jeans and oversized batwing sweatshirts in vibrant jewel tones. But we're not the same people at all. Not only have we, well, *widened* in several ways, the intervening years have forced us into a kind of crucible, there to be heated by fire and tested by ruin; formed, writhing in protest and expanding in joy, into the women we are. Transformed, not lost.

But maybe we were lost then and didn't know it, in those preserved-forever moments in Amy's photo album. Maybe we were searching for ourselves with the crowd of others, not knowing it was us for whom we looked.

*Hmmm.*

Are you lost and no one knows it? Are the people travelling with you yearning for recognition? And what about this: in our search for *us* has Christ been present in our midst and we did not know *him*? Did the others who travelled alongside him struggle with realization that first Easter, knowing the person they were looking at felt familiar but not comprehending that he was transformed, not lost? Maybe they were confused and dazed, mired in earthly experience, eyes blind to the truth that stood before them—lost in their own loneliness, their own grief. If that was true for them, then in the midst of our loneliness, our grief, perhaps in our joys and celebrations too—in the trial of our own transformation—do we also sometimes lose our way and not even know it?

I don't really know the answer to that. But I do know that God doesn't make mistakes: we may not know who we are, or where we are, or even that we are lost, but He has already embedded us in His own Self—claiming us in a love wider than our understanding and patient as eternity. He knew us before we were even a thought in a child-who-would-become-a-parent's heart or an outline on an ultrasound. He knew us before we lost the soft innocence of youth, before the crucible—no doubt crafted by Him to fit our unique self—demanded change. He knows us in our old age as He knew us in our infancy; He knows us in all circumstances, in the sizes, shapes and colours of our journey, and He knows our travelling mates as well.

Truth is, once we place our faith in Jesus, we are no longer lost. Christ *knows* us. He knows our suffering; he was himself tested and rose gloriously from the ruin, transformed into divinity with a complete understanding of humanity. He recognizes our trials and agonies and joys and triumphs because in a sense, *he's been us*. “Look up and see Christ,” whispers the Voice in our hearts.

And when we raise our eyes, we recognize Him—and in that instant experience a startled flash of realization.

And know well Whose we are. ✠



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Words of Pope John Paul II - ‘Catechesi Tradendae’





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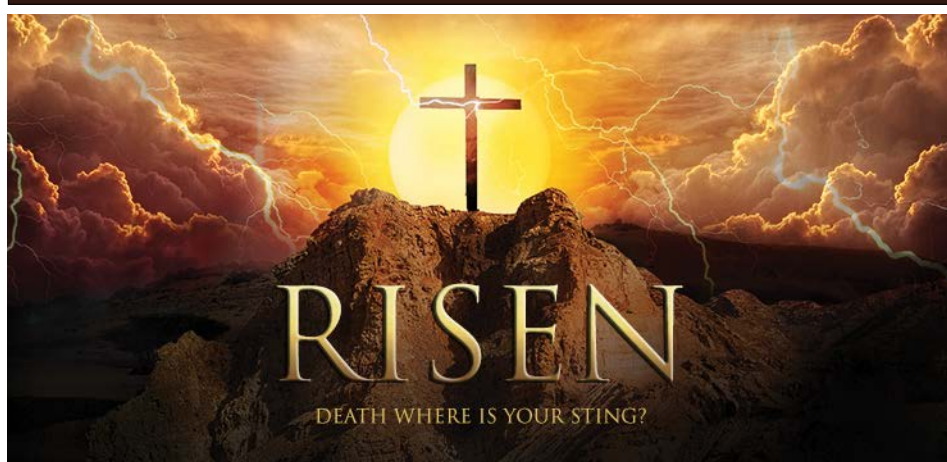
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Holy Week Mass Schedule

Parish	Holy Thursday (Apr 17)	Good Friday (Apr 18)	Easter Vigil (Apr 19)	Easter Sunday (Apr 20)
St. Andrew’s Cathedral	7:30 am Morning Prayer 7:30 pm 10 pm Night Prayer	9 am Morning Prayer 11 am Family Service 3 pm 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	9 am Morning Prayer 8 pm	8 am 9:30 am 11 am 5 pm
Christ the King (Courtenay)	7 pm	3 pm	8:30 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am 2 pm Hornby Island
Church of the Ascension (Parksville)	7 pm (with incense)	3 pm	8 pm (with incense)	8:30 am 10:30 am
Holy Cross	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am 4 pm (with incense)
Holy Family/Notre Dame (Port Alberni)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	9 am 11 am
Mill Bay				
Our Lady Queen of the World	7 pm	3 pm	8:45 pm	11 am
St Francis Xavier		6 pm		9 am
North Island				
Our Lady of Assumption, Alert Bay				4 pm
St. Bonaventure, Port Hardy	7 pm	2:30 pm Stations of the Cross 3 pm	9 pm	
St. Mary’s, Port McNeill				9 am
St. Theresa’s, Port Alice				11:30 am
Our Lady of Fatima (all services in Portuguese and English)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	10:30 am
Our Lady of the Rosary	7 pm (with incense) Adoration to follow until 10:30 pm	3 pm	7:30 pm (with incense)	8:30 am 10:30 am (with incense)
Our Lady Queen of Peace	7 pm (with incense)	2 pm Stations of the Cross 3 pm	8 pm (with incense)	10 am 12 pm Traditional Latin Mass 2 pm (Hungarian)
Sacred Heart	7:30 pm	3 pm (English) 7:30 pm (Korean)	8 pm (English with incense) 10 pm (Korean with incense)	8:30 & 10 am 12:30 pm (Polish) 5 pm (Korean with incense)
Saltspring Island	7 pm	3 pm	7 pm	8 am St. Paul’s, Fulford Harbour 10 am Our Lady of Grace
Saanich Peninsula—Services at St. Elizabeth’s unless otherwise noted St. Elizabeth Our Lady of the Assumption	7:30 pm Adoration to follow	3 pm	9 pm	8:30 am Our Lady of the Assumption 10:30 am St. Elizabeth’s
St. Columba’s	7 pm	3 pm	9 am Morning Prayer 8:30 pm	9:15 am Morning Prayer 10 am
St. Edward’s, Duncan	7 pm	9 am Stations of the Cross up Mt. Tzouhalem	3 pm	10 am
St. Louis de Montfort	7 pm	3 pm		10 am
St. Mary’s, Ladysmith	7 pm	3p m	9 pm	9 am
St. Joseph the Worker (Victoria)	7 pm	3 pm	8:30 pm	6 am Sunrise 10 am 12 pm
St. Patrick’s (Victoria)	7 pm (with incense) Adoration to follow until 10 pm	3 pm 7 pm Stations of the Cross	10 am Blessing of the Easter Bread 7 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
St. Peter’s (Nanaimo) Our Lady of Victory Mission (Gabriola Island)	4:30 pm Gabriola Island 7:30 pm	3 pm 7 pm Stations of the Cross	11 am Blessing of the Food 8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
St. Rose of Lima (Sooke)	7 pm	3 pm	9 pm	10 am
Trinity Catholic (Nanaimo)	7:30 pm Adoration to follow until 10 pm	3 pm	12 noon Blessing of Food 8 pm	8 am 9 am
West Coast				
Holy Family, Ucluelet	7 pm	5 pm		10 am
St. Francis of Assisi, Tofino		3 pm	9 pm	
St. Lawrence, Ahousat				7:30 pm